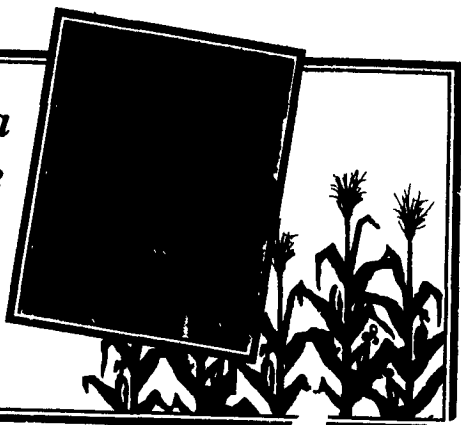


On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)
Joyce Bupp



starts jobs and doesn't finish them. A stack of registration papers, some still awaiting the sketch markings that positively identify the calves whose pedigrees they contain, back up that personality assessment.

A few steps away, on the kitchen cart, lies a squishable plastic - is "squishable" a word? - small black and white cow figure sporting red jogging shorts and stylish sunglasses. The collapsible - I know that's a word - cow is my frustration pet, designed to be squeezed hard when some irritation becomes such that a physical response feels necessary. Squishing the cow, which pops right back out into shape, is a more acceptable response than hitting something. Or kicking something. Or yelling.

That the squishable cow is kept, real handy, on the kitchen cart, might give you a clue about its owner. On the other hand, the cow still looks almost brand new.

Somewhere around here on the main floor of our old house is the portable phone from the office desk. We have a second portable phone, but the push-buttons no longer all work. But it belongs to the answering

machine which still answers. The usable portable is sometimes where it belongs on the office desk. Or it may turn up on the kitchen table. Or in the living room.

When one's house is accessorized with appliances which only half-work, and which may be out of place, what soul traits does that clue? That it's frivolous to replace something which is still useful? That we're not organized? Or that we're just too busy to care, so long as it works when we need it? Maybe all of the above.

But the part of the book review I chuckled over most was a section which noted that folks who don't have pets or plants in their house are subliminally showing they don't want to be responsible for taking care of others' needs.

I read that after having switched chairs so Monk, the aging, spoiled-rotten housecat, could remain curled up on the warm cushions of "my chair" at the kitchen table and after having removed a bouquet of chrysanthemums parked in the center of the table.

Fact is, I'm not sure I know - or care - what having pets and/or plants in one's house means. I just know that most of the people I know well and love have one or the other, and often both.

Finally, I don't know if the book relates how to judge someone who reads book reviews, but not the books themselves. It probably means we cut corners on some things.

And we have to, if we're ever going to find any time to fiddle around with those pets and plants.



York County FFA Selects Outstanding Members

A committee consisting of Pat Diebert of the Lincoln Intermediate Unit, Ed Heindel of the York office of Farm Credit Services, and John Smith of the York Fair Agricultural Society selected the first and second place students from each chapter. Each person selected will receive monetary awards for their accomplishment.

From those individuals placing first in their chapter, an overall county award winner was selected. The county award recipient is Emily Bankert of the Red Lion Area FFA chapter. Bankert is the daughter of Michael and Joyce Bankert, Red Lion. As a part of her FFA experiences she has had projects in off-farm work experience, poultry layers, and sheep breeding.

Bankert has served as her chapter sentinel, reporter, and president and has been chosen for the York County FFA office of sentinel for last year and for the current year. She has participated in and received numerous awards in York County contests such as livestock judging, dairy judging, creed speaking, meats judging, dairy foods, forestry, horse judging, ag salesmanship,

apple judging, parliamentary procedure, wildlife identification, and recordkeeping. She has also participated in state contests of dairy foods, parliamentary procedure and agricultural salesmanship.

First-place winners of other chapters were Jason Deardorff, son of Wayne and Bonnie Deardorff, East Berlin of the Dover chapter; Alicia Klobetanz, daughter of Michael Klobetanz, New Cumberland, and Karen Kohler, Lewisberry, of the Gifford Pinchot chapter at Northern York; and Carrie Bailey, daughter of Richard and Darlene Bailey, Dover, of the White Rose Chapter at York Vot-Tech.

April Harrison, daughter of Woodrow and Rose Harrison, Red Lion of the Red Lion Area FFA chapter received second place honors for representing her chapter.

All of these outstanding students will be completing applications this fall in order to receive the Keystone Degree, awarded by the PA FFA organization.

DeKalb Genetics sponsored the awards. Senior students from each of the chapters are eligible to be selected as the outstanding members of their chapter.

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